implications of the increase in the prices of petroleum products and have taken several measures both on the demand and supply side towards keeping these pressures under check. These include, release of adequate quantities of foodgrains, sugar etc. for distribution under Public Distribution System, curbing growth of liquidity in the system to keep demand under check and checking the speculative tendencies.

Low capacity utilization by HDP woven sack, units in Gujrat due to the implementation of Jute packing Materials Act, 1987

33. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that on account of implementation of the Jute Packing Materials Act, 1987 about 150 HDP woven sack units established in Gujarat are working below capacity;

(b) whether any representations have been received by Government for taking remedial steps by way of reducing percentage of production to be packed jute packing materia] for the cement and fertilizer units located in Gujarat; and

(c) If so, what action has been taken/ proposed to be taken by Government to ensure survival of the large number of SSI units which are going Sick due to operation of the Order?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Plastic Sacking or HDPE units from different parts of the country including from Gujarat have been representing from time to time that the Reservation Orders issued by the Government in terms of the provisions of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 have affected their capacity utilization and economic viability. Government are of the view that the interests of the traditional jute packaging sector and the synthetic plastic units should be harmonised and both of them should co-exist by having a legitimate share of the packaging of various sectors of the economy, *viz* foodgrains, sugar, cement and fertilizers, Keeping this objective in view the Reservation Orders have been in force over the last three years which has provided in the opinion of the Government reasonable share for the jute as well as synthetic sacking units. Government of India in consulation with the Government of Gujarat have also initiated a dialogue with the synthetic woven sack units in this state in order to bring about harmonised co-existence between Jute and HDPE units.

Production and Export of black Pepper

34. SHRI M. M. JACOB; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of black pepper exported during the last five years year-wise and the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(b) whether Government are contemp lating any major scheme to increase pro duction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL); (a) Export of black pepper from 1985-86 to 1989-90 has been as follows:—

Year	Qty (MT)	Value (Rs. Lacs)
1985-86	37620	17248
1986-87	37083	20033
1987-88	41011	24058
1988-89	38020	16420
1989-90 •	36601	15988

(b) Yes, Sir.

During the 8th Five Year Plan period there is a proposal to take up integrated programme for development of spices

which includes production (and distribution of rooted cuttings of high yielding varieties), production of nucleus planting materials of pepper, rehabilitation of old pepper gardens in Kerala, Supply of input kits and plant protection sprayers for pepper cultivation and laying out pepper demonstration plots in ryots holdings.

Pending Income-tax arrears against Vishwa Hindu Parishad

' 35. SHRI M. M. JACOB; Will the Minister of FINANCE, be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount towards income-tax arrears against VHP during 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) what steps have been taken to realise these arrears; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the one Deputy Commissioner of Income-tax who had initiated action against VHP's tax arrears had to quit the job in September, 1990?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Nil.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (reply to (a) above,

(c) No. Sir.

Seizure of illegally imported watch components from HMT factory

36. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA;
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Customs officials have seized over RS. one crore
'"Worth of illegally imported watch components and some incriminating documents from the office and factory premises of HMT;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take against the guilty persons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Acting on intelligence, the officers of Customs of Bangalore Collectorate searched the factory/officejgodown premises of various units of M s. HMT Ltd. located in and around Bangalore on 26th, 27th, 30th: and 31st October and 29th November, 1990. During the search, wrist watch parts and components of foreign origin worth Rs. 1,09,21,210/- approximately which had been imported by various parties located, in Bangalore, Bombay and Navsari (Gujarat) and reportedly sold to M/s. HMT Limited in contravention of the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 and rules and notification issued thereunder and certain documents were seized.

(c) Investigations are in progress and penal proceedingsasenvisaged under the Customs Act, 1962 will be initiated against those persons/firms who are found to have contravened the Customs law.

UnsoM tea at tea auction at Guwahati

37. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA;
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be phased to state;

(a) the quantum of tea that remained unsold in the tea auction held at Guwahati on November 19, 1990;

(b) what were the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking for normal work at the tea auction centre at Guwahati?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) and (b) Based on information available with the tea Board nearly 2.65 M. Kgs. of tea remained unsold on 20th and 21st November, 1990 at auction held fit Guwahati auction centre due to